Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young







Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts







Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

















Ask Dr. Brothers

Teen apathetic about everything

Dear Dr. Brothers: My daughter has always been quiet. She spends a great deal of time in her bedroom and doesn't have a big group of friends. Now she is 15, we have talked about driving, going out with boys, etc., and I am willing to give her reasonable freedom. But she doesn't ask for anything, doesn't care and is quieter than ever. How do I break through her reserve? - L.O.

Dear L.O.: It sounds like you are looking forward to a happy teenage experience more than your daughter is – in fact, it sounds like you are a good mom having a hard time fitting your daughter's style and personality into your understanding. You have an idea of the things she should be interested in, yet she doesn't seem to be on the same page. Since she is naturally reserved, it may take some doing to get her to open up to you, so don't be pushy. Try to engage her in a motherdaughter activity - take her to lunch or shopping, if she'll go - and gently approach the topic of her happiness. Be aware she could be depressed.

Teens almost always are reluctant to be entirely honest and forthcoming with their parents. So don't expect your daughter to pour her heart out. But by the end of this conversation, you should try to determine what your daughter is excited about in life (if anything), what she is looking forward to, what intimidates her about her life, who she'd like to spend more time with and what she would like to do with you. That will give you something to build on for the next time. Good luck.

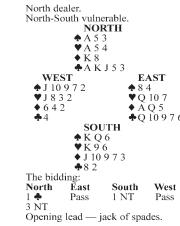
Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband was almost an Eagle Scout. He never tires of talking about how he should have kept going in scouting and regrets turning to sports and girls instead. Anyway, our son has been in scouting for a couple of years and wants to quit. He's talented in art, and at 12 he wants to make his own decisions. My husband is having a fit, and wants him to continue. Our son has kept going, but he's getting mad. What should we do? – G.F.

Dear G.F.: It sounds like a dream deferred has haunted your husband and he has put his hopes on living through his son to accomplish that ultimate scouting achievement. If he is realistic, he will see he can't force his son to stay in scouting for years until the goal is achieved. He would run the risk of alienating his son and I'm sure he does not want that kind of victory. He probably will need to gain acceptance and closure when it comes to his own dream - that it's not going to happen. Perhaps he could work with other scouts who are allowing his son to go in a different direction.

It could be your husband is equating his less important activities - dating and sports - with your son's focus on something other than scouting. This is unfortunate, because if art is in your boy's future, it would be great if your husband (and you) could see he is doing this to use his talent. It's not the easiest path. He will need encouragement and support if he pursues a career in the arts. It would be great if your husband and son could focus on an alternate goal that will be rewarding for both of them.

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Bridge • Steve Becker



Which Suit to Establish?

The problem of which suit to establish in notrump play does not lend itself to flat rules. Every deal has its own identity, and a method of play that succeeds in one case might fail completely in another seemingly similar case.

Consider this deal where South is in three notrump and West leads a spade. Before playing to the first trick, South should form a campaign

Declarer sees seven high-card tricks immediately available, and his problem is to acquire two more. Obviously, the best source of additional tricks lies in either diamonds or clubs, and the question is which suit to attack first. Let's say declarer decides to go after the stron-

ger suit, clubs. If he does so by winning the spade lead in his hand and attempts a club finesse, he goes down when East takes the jack of clubs with the queen and returns the ten in order to establish his own long suit.

Although attacking clubs offers South a very good chance to make the contract, it is clearly not the best approach. Declarer has a sure way to get home safely by winning the spade lead in either hand and immediately attacking diamonds, losing tricks to the ace and queen. Regardless of the East-West distribution or how the opponents defend, South cannot be prevented from establishing three diamond tricks and making four notrump.

In this deal, therefore, South does best by establishing his weaker suit. This does not mean that declarer should always attempt to establish his weaker suit; it simply means that in this particular case, there is a method of play available that is sure to succeed rather than one that might succeed.

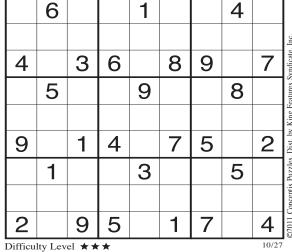
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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"At what age do my calves turn into cows?"

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



This is a logic-based num-

ber placement puzzle.

The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one

instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

| 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Difficulty Level ★★★ | | | | | | | | 10/ |
| | | | | | | | | |

Cryptoquip

FZWRF ZBYHU USZEN JZWY

SEFFULYYHJ' UNZLYWYLN

enthusiastically pursuing the goals he had – while QZH NGYRH JRLJ: "NGY

BRHUNYJ ZQ BYLULFY."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ACTOR PLAYS A 'STAR TREK" NAVIGATOR, I RECKON YOU MIGHT SAY HE GIVES A SULU PERFORMANCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

DOWN

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3 Decora-

lettering

priority

5 Ander-

son's

"High

6 Oriental

nurse-

maid

7 Confine

divine

8 Nearly

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9 The

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4 High-

16 Man-

20 Bliss

mouse

scallopini

22 Relaxa-

23 Baltimore

news-

paper 27 Jazzy

style

measure

30 Tend texts

31 Source of

riches

33 Childish

38 Catcher's

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40 Hercules

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46 Engrossed

47 Reverber-

49 Unspeci-

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53 Back talk

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48 Pace

35 Buddy

29 Mass

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

39 Crony

41 Cover

42 Storm

center

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author

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food

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46 Rues

50 Huge

51 Berry

44 "In Cold

| 1 | Sweet |
|----|-----------|
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| 4 | Wyoming |
| | neighbor |
| 8 | Medicinal |
| | amount |
| 12 | ld coun- |
| | terpart |
| 13 | The |
| | Eternal |
| | City |
| 14 | Physical |
| 15 | Baby |
| | picture? |
| 17 | Options |
| | list |
| 18 | Raw rock |
| 19 | Shenani- |
| | gans |
| 21 | Those |

ACROSS

3-D image 56 Collins or Donahue 57 Eastern bigwig 58 Hearty who shun animal products 24 Yuletide beverage 25 Listener

26 Car: jalopy:: boat: 28 Hayseed 32 Memo acronym — de plume 36 Queen of

Carthage **37** Madagascar critter

voke's on brew 59 Carry them 10 Founder-**60** Agts. 61 Speedometer kin Solution time: 25 mins. Yesterday's answer 10-27

11 Ostriches'

horn, e.g. 55 Expression of disinterest